

The Polish Review

VOL. II, No. 18

NEW YORK, N. Y., MAY 11, 1942

PRICE TEN CENTS



Madonna of Ostra Brama in Wilno

*Holy Virgin! Who bright Czenstochowa defendest
And in Ostra-Brama shimest! Thou who shelterest
The faithful folk and castle town of Nowogródek!
As by miracle, to me a child my health restored, —
When my weeping mother to Thy protection brought me
Dead eyelids I did raise and straightaway went afoot
To Thy shrine's threshold, there to thank God for life renewed —
So by miracle, Thou wilt return us to the bosom of our fathers' country.*

"PAN TADEUSZ" by Adam Mickiewicz

POLAND SPEAKS . . .

Broadcast by Monsignor Zygmunt Kaczynski
Member of the National Council of Poland



King Stanislas Augustus on the 3rd of May, 1791 in the Cathedral of St. John in Warsaw, took an oath to abide by the Constitution which was the most humane and most democratic of the period next to that of the United States.

The present war is being waged for the very ideals that inspired the makers of the Constitution of the 3rd of May, the principles of liberty, respect of law and dignity of man and of nations, great and small.

The substance and the spirit of the Constitution were based upon the eternal principles of the Gospel. On that Gospel and on Christian culture, the "Fuehrer of the Third Reich" has declared war! Poland was the first nation to oppose resistance to modern barbarism. The United States has now joined the fight and will decide the final victory.

I am speaking to you, my dear fellow countrymen in Poland, from the free country of Washington, whither I came with General Sikorski, our Prime Minister and Commander-in-Chief. During the weeks I have spent here I have had an opportunity to get in touch with leading Americans and American Poles. Everywhere I have found a complete understanding and support of the Polish cause, and very deep sympathy with our suffering country. The American nation's friendship and solicitude for Poland find expression not in words but in deeds, in unstinted generosity towards our needy compatriots.

Thousands and tens of thousands of tons of food, clothing and medical supplies have been shipped on American boats to Russian ports for the two million of our people living in Soviet Russia. Polish organizations in the United States and the Polish

THE Constitution of the Third of May was a great event in Polish history and its anniversary is our national holiday. We are proud of that Constitution and glory in it before the world, for its principles will forever testify to the understanding by the Poles of the true spirit of liberty and legal order, to their ability to govern themselves!

While in France a new order was being born in the convulsions of Revolution, and the Declaration of the Rights of Man was paid for by the death of the King and of the hundreds of thousands of citizens — in Poland, almost simultaneously, the Four Year Diet, giving expression to the will of the nation, voted far-reaching reforms in an atmosphere of dignified and serene harmony.

Amid general enthusiasm,

Consulate General in New York are collecting hundreds and thousands of food parcels for Polish prisoners of war in Germany, and in the Miranda camp in Spain where our soldiers and officers of our army are suffering unspeakable hardships. Out of funds subscribed by American Poles as well as from the American Red Cross, help for our tortured and starving people in the old country is being shipped by all possible channels. That help would be a hundredfold greater if there was any guarantee that the supplies will not be seized by the German occupants in our country.

The friendship and, if I may say so, the gratitude of the American people towards the Polish nation find expression mainly in regard to Poland's heroic attitude towards the German invader, her peremptory refusal to collaborate with the occupants, the ceaseless and innumerable contributions of our country to the common cause.

Poland has won the friendship and admiration of the American people, also by the courage and daring of her soldiers, fighting the common enemy on land, upon the seas and in the air.

Already the German war-machine has been seriously weakened. Its best troops have been destroyed on the Eastern front. In that army as well as inside Germany, discontent and disorganization are increasing because of the prolongation of the war, because of physical exhaustion and the steadily growing lack of supplies. The prophecies of the seer of Berchtesgaden are no longer taken seriously by anybody. The time for "blitzkriegs", and triumphal parades is past. Allied air offensives over Germany, in which Polish bombers take a prominent part, increase daily in force and are causing the Germans many a sleepless night.

The best proof of that neurasthenia, the result of sleepless nights, is the Fuehrer's latest Reichstag speech. The man who ordered the slaughter of tens and hundreds of thousands of innocent people, without trial or proof of guilt, — the man who invented the most atrocious tortures and methods of killing known to history — that man appeared before the Reichstag in the guise of an innocent lamb, asking for the right to punish people, who, to his mind, do not do their duty.

Germany's inevitable defeat and well deserved punishment are slowly but surely drawing near. The arm of justice will reach the felons and their henchmen. They will be held responsible for the wrongs and sufferings of their victims, for the death of the innocent and defenseless people.

The day is near when the fetters will fall from the nations conquered by Germany. Liberated Poland will rise to a new independent life. Our Polish bombers will fly again over Polish soil. The Polish Navy will return to Gdynia, Danzig and Elbling. In triumph Polish tanks will cross the Polish border.

Let us pray the Lord for the coming of that day, for the day of Poland's Resurrection. Let us pray to Him in the words of our national poet:

Poland! O Poland! Thy grave is but the cradle of our future greatness!

Come, o come! Spring of the world!

Come, o come! Divine Spirit.

UPPER SILESIA AS AN ECONOMIC UNIT

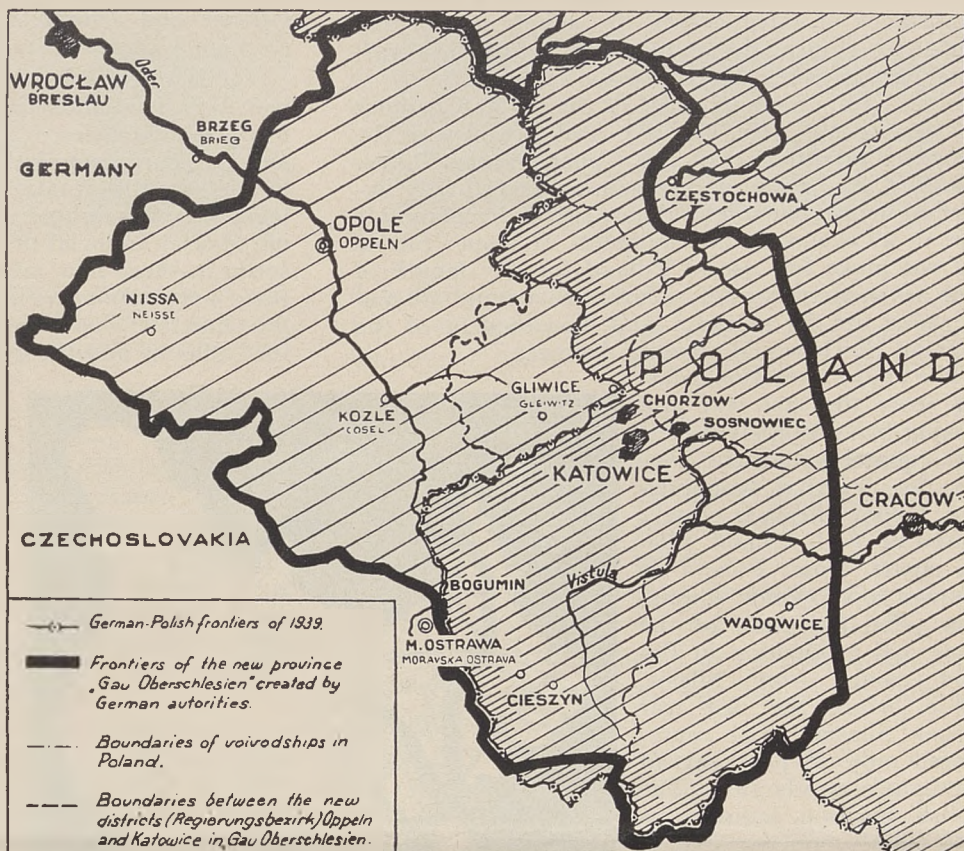
GERMANY is not the natural market for coal and other products from Upper Silesia, which cannot compete with the Ruhr and the system of communication at its command. Poland, more conveniently placed, represents the natural and unrivalled market for Upper Silesian products. This has repeatedly been pointed out by German authorities, in the first instance by the German Chamber of Commerce at Opole and the German Miners' and Smelters' Association at Katowice.

Prior to the last war both these organizations submitted to Bethmann-Hollweg, the German Chancellor, a number of confidential memoranda suggesting that part or the whole of Poland, then under Russian rule, should be incorporated with Germany. This, it was stated, would help the development of Silesian industry.

These memoranda were left in Czeszochowa by the German authorities of occupation and found by the Poles in 1918. In one memorandum dated 1915 we read that such an incorporation would be of "special importance for the industrial districts of Upper Silesia which always encounter great marketing difficulties in the southeastern corner of the Reich" on account of their situation. "This land, surrounded on three sides by foreign territories, is in want of a natural market", the memorandum goes on to state. "All the difficulties impeding the development of Upper Silesia would be removed or at least reduced if Poland were incorporated in Germany."

The economic link between Upper Silesia and the other parts of Poland was even more obvious in the case of iron. The annual production of pig-iron in Upper Silesia before the World War was approximately one million tons, or 5.9 per cent. of the total German production. In 1871 the ratio of Silesian production to the total German production was 14.8 per cent., and in 1901 it was still 8.1 per cent. This shows that the iron industry in Silesia does not share in the development of the main centres of German industries in Westphalia and the Rhineland.

The *Handbuch des Oberschlesischen Industriebezirkes*, published by the German Miners' and Smelters' Association to commemorate the 12th anniversary of the German miners' day in Breslau in 1913, stated on this subject: "The iron industry of Upper Silesia



NEW GERMAN "GAU" BEARS WITNESS TO THE ECONOMIC UNITY OF UPPER SILESIA

could avail itself of the iron ore sources outside the country only to a comparatively small degree until recent times, for the cost of iron ore transport from most of these sources was a burden for the Silesian industry. Russian Poland has large and rich deposits of ore in the immediate vicinity of the frontier of Upper Silesia. These could provide Upper Silesian smelting works with excellent and cheap material."

The memoranda mentioned earlier, submitted to the German chancellor during the last war by the Silesian organizations show to what an extent Upper Silesia was dependent on Polish iron ore.

The memorandum of September 3, 1916, submitted by the German Mining and Smelting Association in Katowice, states: "It would be of the utmost importance for the Upper Silesian mining industry and the whole German economy if at least the districts bordering on Upper Silesia, more particularly the Bedzin district and part of the districts of Olkusz, Czeszochowa and Wielun, were incorporated in the German Reich".

A memorandum of the Opole Chamber of Commerce of September 24, 1916, declared, "We regard it as a matter of prime importance that Upper Silesia should be freed from the economic handicap of its geographical and political situation, which is the origin and essence of all the grievances in our district. We should like to stress once again the great

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UPPER SILESIA AS AN ECONOMIC UNIT

(Continued from page 3)

importance of safeguarding the supply of ore and timber for Upper Silesian industry, above all in wartime, but also after the conclusion of peace."

Finally, in a memorandum of the Opole Chamber of Commerce of July, 1917, we read, "In view of the unfavorable situation of the Upper Silesian industrial district, Poland will remain an exceedingly important factor, one might almost say an irreplaceable one, in its economic development. If Upper Silesia did not make full use of Poland for any length of time, its industry would be forced to a standstill and its value for the recovery and development of the German Reich would steadily decrease."

The above quotations, dating from the last war and coming from competent German quarters, clearly confirm the view that, economically, Upper Silesia is closely bound up with Poland. Silesia apart from Poland is doomed to economic stagnation. 75.6 per cent. of the total coal production in Poland comes from Silesia, while before the last war Upper Silesian coal represented only 28 per cent. of Germany's production. The Polish pig-iron industry is also mainly concentrated in Upper Silesia, while before the last war it did not account for more than 5.9 per cent. of the total iron production in Germany. Thus, for Polish economy, Silesian industry was vital, while in Germany it played only a secondary rôle.

Thus, a study of the Upper Silesian industries both before the World War and after shows that they have no prospects of development within the German Reich. They gravitate towards Poland, the natural hinterland of Silesia. This is borne out especially by the German measures of 1941 after the occupation of Poland and the incorporation of her western provinces in the German Reich. At the beginning of that year the Germans divided all Silesia into two provinces, Gau Niederschlesien, with Breslau as the provincial capital, and Gau Oberschlesien with Katowice. The Polish part was thus separated from the German. The province of Oberschlesien includes the former Opole Regency, the voievodship of Silesia and the districts of Dabrowa Górnicza and the border district of the province of Cracow, namely, Jaworzno, Chrzanów, Biala and Zywiec.

The entire coal and smelting industries, from Karwina and Trzynieć to Olkusz and Cracow, have in this way been concentrated by the Germans in the area of Katowice which, in addition to those parts

which belonged to Poland, now includes Bytom, Gliwice and Zabrze, i.e. the industrial district of German Upper Silesia.

Yet despite the favorable conditions created by the war, this new industrial centre is already beginning to cause difficulties to the Third Reich, economically and as regards population. Attempts are being made to alleviate the situation by financial and other privileges. "A far-sighted statesmanlike scheme involving special financial privileges will induce people to settle in these new areas and will greatly facilitate their permeation with German blood and an improvement in their economy. In addition Reich Aid for Industry and the granting of credits guaranteed

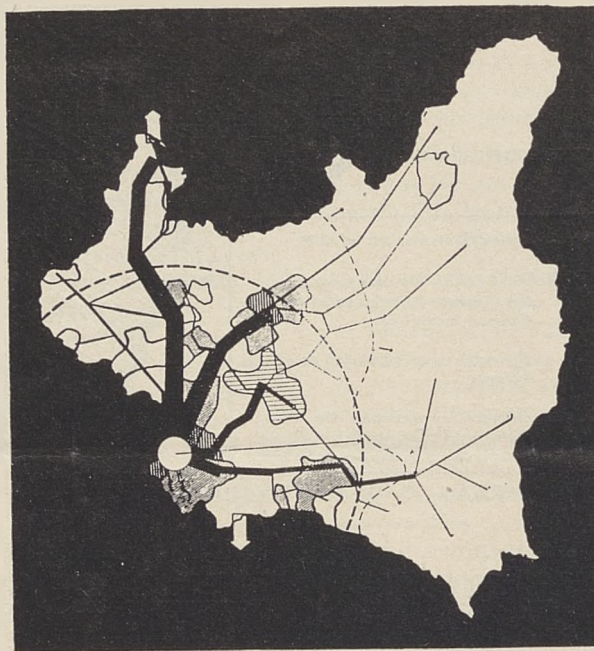
by the Reich will also help to finance the recovery", wrote Erwin Koch in the *Kattowitzer Zeitung*, on December 30, 1940, in an article entitled "Steuer Osthilfe Verordnung."

Continuing in his article to assess the economic prospects of this new "German" industrial center, Koch writes of the markets to be created for the products of Silesian industry. These lie in the districts which will be made accessible by the regulation of the Vistula and the building of roads eastwards. This furnishes one more up-to-date proof that Silesia is economically bound up with Poland and not with Germany.

Poland, however, offers unlimited marketing possibilities for coal and the products of the smelting and processing industries. The

railway system from Silesia to Central Poland and especially to her eastern provinces, although considerably increased already, still offers wide scope for development, and so does the system of waterways. Poland, at present only partially industrialized, will have to develop her industrial potential in the future. This will create for Silesia conditions far more favorable than it can ever hope for within Germany's economic orbit.

Finally, we cannot overlook one more factor which is of paramount importance — namely the human factor. Poles form 93 per cent. of the population in Polish Silesia and 60 per cent. in the German part; artisans, miners and factory hands are all Polish. Their effort has built up Silesian industry and the future development of this important part of Europe will largely depend on the question whether these men are able to live in freedom.



TRANSPORTATION CHART FROM SILESIA TO VARIOUS PARTS OF POLAND

STAMPS TELL THE SPIRIT OF THE NATIONS



ONE of the many proofs of how deep-seated and lasting is Polish-American friendship is to be found in the postage stamps issued by the two countries.

In 1932, on the 200th Anniversary of Washington's birth Poland issued a stamp showing Washington between Kosciuszko and Pulaski, with the national flags of Poland and of the United States. The denomination of the stamp was 30 grosze.

In this connection, Poland observed Washington's anniversary with great public rejoicings. An oak tree was planted in Ignacy Paderewski's Park in Warsaw, dedicated to the memory of the first President of the United States and called "George Washington's Oak".

The United States had already issued two stamps in honor of two great Poles: Kazimierz Pulaski and Thadeus Kosciuszko. The former is a red two-cent stamp issued on January 16, 1931, on the anniversary of the Battle of Savannah where Pulaski met a hero's death leading a charge of American cavalry. In all, 96,559,440 copies of this stamp were sold.

The Kosciuszko stamp was issued two years later, in 1933, to commemorate the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the naturalization of Thadeus Kosciuszko, Revolutionary hero, as a citizen of the United States.

This stamp intended for international postage was a five-cent peacock blue and shows the Kosciuszko statue by Antone Popiel that stands in Lafayette Park, Washington, D. C., opposite the White House — a total of 41,429,200 were sold.

Now the Polish Government, by special arrangement with the British authorities, has issued its own postage stamps, some of which depict memorable war scenes, such as the bombed ruins of the United States Embassy in Warsaw.

The stamps, in eight denominations, up to a little over twenty-five cents, are for the use of the Polish

fighting forces and merchant seamen. Crews of Polish warships and those aboard merchant ships, whether at sea or in port, can use the stamps for their letters or parcels.

The 5 groszy stamp in violet, depicts the ruins of the United States Embassy in Warsaw. Next is the ten-groszy stamp in bright green showing the ruins of the Polish Ministry of Finance in Warsaw with the Grecian colonnade intact.

The third denomination is the twenty-five groszy, a gray stamp with a vertical design showing the monument erected in honor of the poet Adam Mickiewicz in Cracow being knocked down from its pedestal by a German.

The fifty-five groszy stamp, in royal blue, shows the Castle Square in Warsaw. In the center is the Virtuti Cross, the highest Polish military decoration, awarded to Warsaw for its resistance to the Germans, and the date, September, 1939.

A seventy-five groszy stamp in olive green with a picture of a machine-gun post manned by two Polish soldiers says: "Polish Army in Great Britain."

The eighty groszy, in magenta color, shows a medium size tank with Polish markings and the inscription: "Polish armored units in Great Britain."

Next is the one zloty stamp, in indigo blue, picturing a Wellington bomber and three Hurricane fighter planes with British and Polish markings ready for a take-off. On it is inscribed: "Polish Air Force in Great Britain."

The highest denomination costs one zloty, fifty groszy. It is in brown and depicts the famous Polish submarine "Orzel" with the inscription: "Polish Navy in Great Britain."



OLD POLISH CUSTOMS

PAINTINGS BY IGA STRYJENSKA

DROWNING THE MULCH

Each year as the ice-bound rivers begin to flow, the ground to soften up, the aroma of the soil to rise, Perku-nes, the god of lightning, is honored. Polish villagers observe the very old custom of "Drowning the Mulch" and celebrate the feast of Marzanna, an ancient pagan goddess. Below, on the left we see a beautiful maiden—the goddess Marzanna, clad in a stiff dress of plant ornaments, with red beads on her hands. In one hand she holds a fish, symbol of her reign over the waters, with the other she braids her wet hair. A triple whirl of foam surrounds her head, while Ondines, entangled in weeds, besport themselves about her. On the Sunday before Holy Week, the villagers make a huge Mulch of straw in human form and plaster it with silvered egg-shells. They take the straw man to the river where amid much rejoicing and no little tumult, they sink him beneath the waves, pricking him with pitchforks. In so doing, they sing the song of the straw-man.

When February comes Marzanna is in wreathes
Whither shall she carry us? As we have no road
Carry me, Maiden! to the green path way
And throw me in the water—very deep water . . .

Thus it is that they drown the "image of winter", and the prospect of lean harvests and poverty. Then the country girls get ready for the "gaik", a small green tree decked out in a great variety of ornaments. They carry it around the village, visiting every home. It is a symbol of prosperity and the coming of spring. Then the tree is taken to church and laid near the altar.

More gaiety and laughter follows: "the Smigust!"



SOBOTKA

Sobotka — a solemn spring celebration during the summer solstice on the Eve of St. John. It derived its name from Saturday, as the celebration was held on the Saturday before the holiday. In times of Slav paganism this holiday was called Lada-Kupalo. The main features of these old ceremonial rites are similar throughout Poland, namely: the lighting of fires, leaping and jumping over the fires, bathing and crowning each other with wreathes of green foliage. The villagers believe that they are purified by the home fires and water. This old custom is especially observed by young girls who sing old ritual songs. In some villages people look for fern, to which they impute magic powers: anyone who finds a blossoming fern and takes the flower has the gift of seeing hidden treasure.

At night the young men start bonfires. Then in solemn procession, young girls and boys jump over the flames.

Come Sisters! See this Holy Night
Is with old times' resplendence bright;
Blaze! Blaze a new, Sobotka's fire!
Till lulled by song the night retire.

At midnight the girls search for various herbs and tell fortunes from flowers. Then garlands and wreathes are thrown on the water and the young girls' future is foretold from the way these offerings float away. The young people spend the rest of the evening on beautifully decorated boats and sing old songs to the accompaniment of music.

SMIGUS - DYNGUS

Easter Monday is celebrated in Poland with much gaiety and laughter. People sprinkle each other with water. In the villages boys visit homes early in the morning, singing: "Here we came with Dyngus — we shall tell you about the Christ." At times they whip each other with green twigs, flowers and weeds. This facetious custom was retained from ancient times when primitive man sought to transfer vital forces from the vegetal to the animal world. Holy Easter Water was also considered to possess magic properties for healing and fecundity. Small children go from home to home and get gifts for their singing. The mutual lashing and whipping of each other, is now done in commemoration of Christ's sufferings.

The center figure below is a peasant sprinkling his friends with water, while the girls are soused as shown above. The Easter eggs, called "Pisanki" are beautifully ornamented with old peasant designs. On the previous Saturday they were sprinkled with Holy Water by the Priest of the village, using a broom that is also shown.

Easter in Poland was ever a time of frivolity among the elite as well as the masses. Even in cities on Monday after Easter, men sprinkled women with water, while on the Tuesday women usurped the privilege and returned the compliment with equal profuseness.

They sprinkled each other in different ways. In society, distinguished admirers sprinkled their sweethearts gently with perfumed water. Those who lacked discretion "sprinkled" girls and even matrons with aqua pura, sometimes with bucketsfull straight in the face. When the fun was well underway, gentlemen and gentlewomen, esquires and well-bred maidens, let go all restraint and soused each other with water. Servants brought up supplies of water, while their betters "sprinkled" each other to their hearts' content, till all looked as though they had escaped from a flood.



POLISH SOLDIERS' LIFE IN RUSSIA



PREPARING FOR ACTION

A POLISH soldier's life in Russia is best described in the Polish military weekly *The White Eagle*, published there. Here is what it says:—

"In the cold wind the tents are flapping. We know what this sound means. For three or four days a northern wind will blow, to the accompaniment of twenty degrees of frost. Inside the tent, the fire has died down in the little stove made of pilfered bricks. The supply of wood prepared for tonight has been used up.

Tomorrow we shall have to look for more wood—perhaps we shall succeed in scrounging some boards from a wooden fence, or tearing down some log-hut. The forest is far away — over five miles. The Fifteenth Infantry Regiment made this trip yesterday. The officers and men brought some hewed logs back on their shoulders. Many of them had frost-bitten legs and hands, but their tents were proudly belching out smoke throughout the night.

Tomorrow the officers of Divisional Headquarters, headed by General Boruta-Spiechowicz, will go to the forests. The soldiers of the Fifth Division deeply appreciate this proof of comradeship between the Commanding Officer and his soldiers in the struggle against our common enemies, Frost and Cold.

However, it is not always possible to walk ten miles there and back to fetch wood, and the supply one can bring on one's shoulders doesn't last long. So one has to find some other means of self-help, and the best proof that such means are being devised is the smoke which constantly rises from the canvas

chimneys of all the tents. No one is left without wood.

The most painful moment of the day comes after Reveille, when one has to get up from under one's rugs and coats, and to pull on one's frozen boots. There is no need to put on our other garments because we sleep in everything we have.

Sad news at morning roll call — some of our comrades have been unable to endure a night spent in a tent 4 degrees below zero, and they have had to be taken to hospital. We console ourselves with the thought that this freezing in tents won't last much longer.

Ten large, new barracks are already built. The Training Battalion and the Reserve Centre, which had the worst uniforms, have been transferred there. The regiments are building earth-huts for themselves, which in a few weeks will protect us against the cold. In companies, we go to the kitchens for breakfast. Here an unpleasant surprise awaits us. Owing to lack of fuel, not all the kitchens are functioning. This means that we have to queue up for a fairly long time in the cold wind in front of the kitchens.

For breakfast we have soup made of gruel and herrings. For dinner, we shall get a bean-soup in which those who are very lucky will possibly find a little meat. These two soups and 1 lb., 10 ozs. of bread, and 7/16 ozs. of sugar, is our whole day's ration. No wonder, therefore, that soldiers crowd all day long in front of the kitchens, trying to get some additional soup. This is fully realized by the

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READING THE CAMP WALL NEWSPAPER

GERMAN SPY SYSTEM IN POLAND



IN SPITE of the non-aggression pact with Poland, everything was being secretly prepared in the Reich for war against the Polish Republic.

German espionage and Fifth Column activities are very highly organized and in addition to military preparations and topographical studies of the future field of battle in Poland,

carried out by the intelligence service of the Reichswehr, the Gestapo was busy training fifth columnists, saboteurs and agents provocateurs. Many of these were Germans brought from Poland, carefully schooled in Nazi ideology, prepared for propaganda work and trained in the handling of arms. After completing the course they were returned to Poland via Danzig.

The Germans themselves make no boast of having been able to train several thousand Polish citizens up to the outbreak of the war. This is a really striking success considering that this training was taking place in a period of peace and during the so-called "friendship" with Poland.

So it is not surprising that at the outbreak of the war a portion of the young Germans in Poland co-operated with secret agents sent from the Reich, using a complicated system of signals and carrying out activities requiring special preparation, that they had been given in the Reich, where German sabotage agents were frankly trained for wartime assignments. These secret agents were native German Nazis aged from 17 to 24 years. They were taught the Polish language and geography, and even the history of Poland, of course suitably prepared.

...At the outbreak of hostilities Germany had at her disposal about 5,000 sabotage agents. This organization was planned in the minutest details. The sabotage agents were trained to play the role of Polish "refugees" long before any one could foresee that the aerial war would drive the people out of whole villages and towns and impel them to flee into the unknown. There were sabotage agents trained to play the role of Polish policemen, there were others whose assignment was to spread alarming rumors and cause panic.

...One of them, speaking an excellent Polish, almost without accent and tinged with a Mazovian pronunciation was captured in the disguise of a Polish peasant. He was caught because among the things he carried with him on a poor peasant car was a common peasant wooden chest, painted in a flowery Polish pattern, but filled with . . . German machine gun bullets. He boasted of the "training" he had received and said he came from the Rhineland, where in his youth he had met Polish workers employed in his father's business. For many years he had belonged to the Hitler-jugend, and later to the S.S. He had reported to "school as a result of a secret

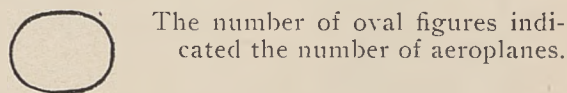
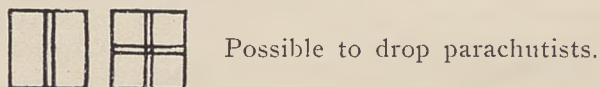
draft ordered by the party authorities in 1937 (sic!). He supposed he had been selected because in the questionnaire he had indicated that he knew Polish. The school was located in Bonn, Rhineland, Western Germany. The course lasted about eight months, with an enrollment of about 40 young Germans from various lands of the Reich, the vast majority coming from East Prussia and the vicinity of Breslau. All were members of the S.S. All knew some Polish, and their accent, pronunciation, vocabulary were the object of meticulous care on the part of two language teachers.

... After six months of "study" and passing an examination, the pupils were assigned a more defined operating area, limited in each case to several townships. He knew every village, every parish in them; he knew by heart, as he admitted, the names of the rectors, mayors, druggists and other well-known citizens.

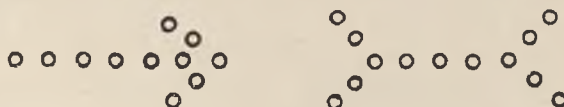
The following were the signs agreed between the German airmen and fifth columnists during the Polish-German war.

Ground Signals Made to Airmen

1. Designs made by treading down tilled ground.



2. By the disposition of hay and corn stooks.



3. By scything grain according to the above designs.
4. By painting the roofs.
5. By light signals.
 - (a) By rockets.
 - (b) By lights in chimneys.

INVASION OF SCOTLAND

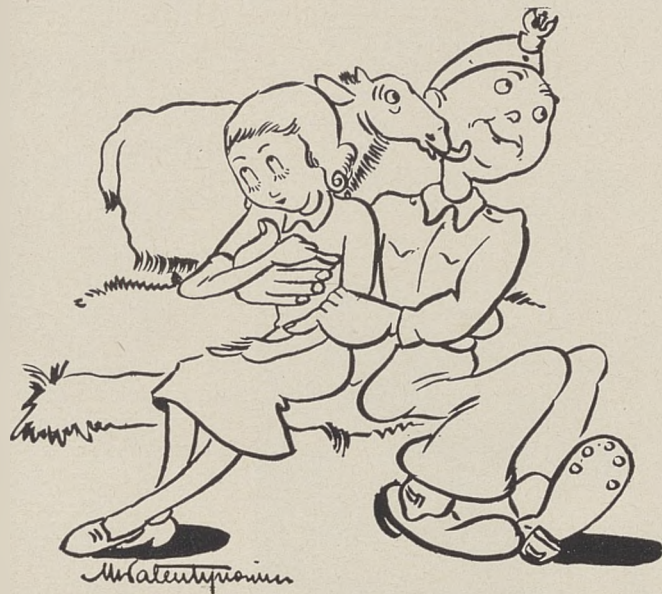
By KSAWERY KRUSZYNSKI

SCOTLAND has known no invasion for many centuries. The Romans never reached it; William the Conqueror landed on a distant coast and Scotland remained herself. But such inviolability could not remain permanent. The peaceful Polish invasion came as a terrible blow. The news spread like fire, from Glasgow and Edinburgh to Perth, St. Andrews, Dundee, Forfar and Inverness. Scottish children had heard a good deal about Redskins, Chinamen, Negroes and Eskimos, and about many other races and nations. They even knew the Hebrews and the Egyptians from their Scripture and the Assyrians and Phoenicians from their lessons. But they knew nothing about the Poles. A new migration of nations was needed to help them make their acquaintance.

"And where do the Poles live?"
 "In Poland."
 This was hardly helpful.
 "And what language do they speak?"
 "Polish," replied someone particularly well informed.
 "Really? They speak Polish?" wondered the listeners. And they gasped before the vastness of the world and the number of tongues brought about by the silly notions of the architects of Babel.
 "What does one eat in Poland?"
 "Bread, meat," answered the first Pole to be questioned. The reply seemed to strike everyone as quite unexpected and stirred their interest in the mysterious country.
 "Ah, and you have got trams?"
 "Yes."
 "And fireplaces in the houses?"
 "Very few fireplaces."
 This worried everyone and caused sympathy.
 "Then how do you manage in the winter? It is terribly cold there, isn't it?"
 "We make fire in the stoves," replied the Poles; "there are plenty of those."
 General amazement.
 "Do you have Christmas?"
 "Do you play golf?"
 "And tennis?"
 "How about fishing?"
 "Do you read the Bible?"
 "Do you get news from your people in Poland?"
 "How did you like Norway? It is very much like Poland, isn't it?"
 The Poles asked their own questions, stammering a good deal at first.
 "So you are not English?"
 "No. Haven't we told you we are Scots?"
 "Then why do you speak English?"
 "We speak English, but we are Scotch. The Americans speak English too, and the Canadians and the Australians. They are not English, but they do speak the language."
 And they added: "When we win this war, you

Poles will speak English, too. It's quite easy. . . ."
 The Poles did not think it easy at all. But Scottish children made a game of singing Polish words aloud in the streets. They greeted every soldier with a choral of: *Dzien dobry* (good morning), *Dobry wieczor* (good evening), *Dowidzenia* (goodbye), *Czolem* (salute).
 "A Polish soldier called me *paskudna*. What is *paskudna*?" asked a fair maid of Perth.
 "Well, perhaps you were not nice enough to that soldier," another Pole tried to explain.
 "Oh, yes, I was very nice, indeed," said the girl, "but he expected too much sympathy for his country."
 * * *
 They collected stray foreign words together with the dust of European roads, which clung to their boots. They learned that 'please' in Serb is *molim*, and 'good-bye' in Hungarian is *viszontlátásra*—a bit of a mouthful even for Poles. In Rumania they called girls *domnizsara* and flattered them with the word *fruma*, which means beautiful.
 Then they started to study French and learned to call a girl mademoiselle and say *s'il vous plait* for 'please.' Besides, many of them knew it already, for French has long been the universal language of love. In Norway they found out that a German is a *Tysk* and bread is *bred*. The simpler minds found considerable satisfaction in the fact that the Norwegian for 'fiord' is exactly the same as the Polish *fiord*.
 And then they had to start all over again. This time it was to be English.
 Eight English teachers were assigned to the unit. They formed small groups of pupils and soon a monotonous choral was heard in the afternoons: the table; the chair; the bench; the pencil; the book. It is no easy matter to teach Poles to put their tongues in the correct position between the teeth, or wherever they have to be, to get the English 'the.' The whole group spent many hours trying to learn the trick, and drops of sweat stood out on some foreheads as they said for the hundredth time: 'Tze,' like so many buzzing bees. It was much harder work than the morning drill. Some dropped off, worn with exhaustion. Others carried gallantly on and repeated: yellow; yellow.
 "But don't say 'yel-love'," said the teacher "it should be just 'yel-

(Continued on opposite page)



HIS FIRST "KISS" IN SCOTLAND

low.' You don't pronounce the 'w' at the end. Say it again—'yellow'." They said it.
 "Well, that's a lot better." The teacher seemed pleased with the result. "In another five or six years you will be able to speak English almost like Scots."
 The promise of years of sojourn in Scotland produced among the soldiers greater panic than news about the landing of ten thousand German parachutists would have done.
 "I don't mean to say," the kind teacher explained, "that you will actually stay another five or six years. But I think that five years is the minimum period for learning the language of Shakespeare and Milton. Provided, of course, that you don't speak Polish among yourselves. . . ."
 "But then, we will forget Polish, and when we finally do return home, we will be unable to talk to our wives, children or friends."
 "That will be splendid. You will teach them English. . . ."

The fortunes of war have brought to these shores many thousands of brave Polish soldiers, airmen, sailors and merchant seamen. Their bearing has won them universal admiration in this country and cast further lustre, if that were possible, on the proud, heroic traditions of Poland. I have visited your soldiers in Scotland while they were waiting to repel the invader, and while they are longing in their hearts, above all, to carry back their flag of freedom to their countrymen.

WINSTON CHURCHILL

HONOR TO MALTA NOT UNIQUE

Polish Cities of Lwow and Warsaw Also Received Medals for Valor

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NEW YORK TIMES:

"Awarding a medal of valor to a place is without precedent, but so is the endurance of this island citadel." This is Mrs. Anne O'Hare McCormick's comment on the awarding of the George Cross to the island of Malta.

With the full deference due to the heroism of the garrison of Malta and to the endurance of the Maltese civilian population, I think it might be of interest to your readers to learn that the decoration of the island of Malta is not without precedent. In fact, the Polish cities of Warsaw and Lwow are awarded the Polish medal of valor "*Virtuti Militari*," the medal recently conferred by the Polish Government upon General Douglas MacArthur.

The city of Lwow was decorated for the valorous stand of its civilian population in November, 1918, during the fighting subsequent to the downfall of the Kaiser's Germany and Habsburg Austria-Hungary. The most important engagements of a conflict aimed at the elimination of the remnants of the influence of the Central Empires were fought out in the streets of Lwow and the civilian population participated actively on the Polish side. When the "*Virtuti Militari*" Cross was awarded to the city a replica was carved in the walls of the General Post-office, and could be seen there for almost twenty years.

When Lwow was occupied by the Red Army in September, 1939, the cross was left in its place — evidently because it was considered a historical monument. It is hardly likely that the Germans, who are holding Lwow now, and their Ukrainian Fascist helpers are showing the same circumspection.

The city of Warsaw was awarded the cross "*Virtuti Militari*" for the heroism of its citizens during the siege of the Polish capital by the Germans in September, 1939. Warsaw's cross will be put in a place of honor within that city, and Lwow's cross will be restored to its previous place— when the day of liberation comes.

WIKTOR J. EHRENPREIS.

New York, April 21, 1942.

Reprinted from THE NEW YORK TIMES, April 27, 1942

POLISH SOLDIERS' LIFE IN RUSSIA

(Continued from page 8)

stern head-cook, but he gives everything that remains in his kitchen to the hungriest ones.

In spite of all these shortcomings and of the cold, one doesn't see long faces in our division. Those who joined the army only to get some food and clothes left for a warmer place long ago. All the sick soldiers also or those who were too feeble to endure the hard camp life, have been sent to Tashkent.

Those who remain are boys healthy in body and mind — who can endure any hardships, and fully realize that the road home is not a bed of roses. One of the main tasks of the Division's commander is to maintain the fine morale of his men. There is a perfectly organized Soldier's Theatre, which gives extremely popular concerts



THE "ALARM" IS SOUNDED

and shows several times a week. The auditorium is always packed to the limit. The "first nights" — and the programme is often changed — are great events in the life of the camp. The better jokes circulate among the soldiers for a long time.

The camp is also proud of its own church, housed in the building of an officers' mess. From the altar Our Lady of Victories, in a halo of bayonets, blesses the soldiers who fill the church. On Sundays, services are held un-

interruptedly from 6 a.m. to noon, and the church is always full.

Every day is a day of hard work. Arms had been distributed to the Division, and mere inactive sitting in tents has ended long ago. This perhaps has done most to raise the morale of the soldiers. A true soldierly spirit came to the camp with the rifles, and an unflinching faith that all these hardships will not have been endured in vain.

GERMAN SPY SYSTEM IN POLAND

(Continued from page 9)

The pupils of the school for sabotage agents were summoned twice a year to the S.S. for a short training period during which their information regarding the territory to which they were assigned was "brought up to date." At that time they always received a few Polish books containing information on the territory to which they were assigned.

Another very interesting German was captured in the uniform of a "Polish frontier guard." His credentials were in order, but he had slightly too many weapons and too much ammunition; moreover he betrayed himself, for he met his alleged superior of whom he had spoken but whom, as it proved, he did not know. Under pressure he also admitted that he had attended a school for sabotage agents and that three months before the war he had been summoned for a brief training course during which he

had been "taught" the role of a Polish frontier guard, given the regulations to learn, and even fictitiously "assigned" to a Polish detachment and supplied with accurate details about its composition and work. Immediately after the outbreak of hostilities he was to go to Poland for activity at the rear of the army. His Polish uniform had been given him on AUGUST 26!

These instances suffice to show how precise was the spying and fifth column machinery the Germans set going against Poland. The short duration of the campaign did not permit the carrying out of methodical research and the gathering of richer material, but the war experiences confirmed with utmost certainty the fact of the existence of a strong fifth column excellently organized and acting efficiently, and above all splendidly familiar with the territory in which it was assigned to operate. . . .